commodore
(japan)

inter-office memo

DATE : November 27, 1980

TO : Mike Tomczyk   FROM : Tony Tokai

CC : J. Tramiel   D. Sanford   Y. Terakura   Y. Hattori
      S. Shivji   H. Green   J. Guinn

SUBJECT :   " VIC – YOUR MEMO OF NOV. 10 "

1. U.S./JAPAN MODEL DIFFERENCE

   a) Computer Board

   U.S. Board can be identical to Japanese Board if the same
   voltage regulator as the one on Japanese Board is used.
   For your reference, the U.S. engineers seem to be concerned
   about the fact that the voltage regulator is available only
   from the single source. I believe that if we give a sufficient
   lead time, it is not difficult at all to secure the quantity
   required for the production.

   b) Power Supply

   You do need a different power supply since voltage in Japan
   is 100V while yours is 115V.

   c) Video Circuitry

   I have decided that it's been solved. I know the U.S. is working
   on it. If it's better, we will change the circuitry from say
   January production machines.

   d) Keyboard

   You forgot to include the keyboard layout. If it is same as
   what I got from Shiraz, my vendor has made 5 samples and air-
   freighted them to Shiraz Shivji.

   e) Programmable Function Keys

   Agreed.

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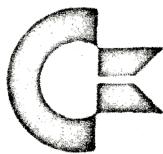
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f) Cassette Interface

The only problem we know of is that when you load a program
with SHIFT & RUN STOP key, you can use only the Shift key
on the left side. If this is what you are talking about
(although it has nothing to do with the cassette interface),
we know Santa Clara is working on it. We have not been told
as yet that it's been solved.

g) RF modulator

We will include RF modulator in the price of VIC. The cost
to me is US$3.80 FOB Philippines.

2. FUNCTION KEYS

If we get VIC 20f (I will call it VIC-2001) for Japanese distri-
bution, we will have same functions preassigned. However, only the
RUN command should be accompanied by CHR$(13) since other commands
will be followed by some parameters and/or strings.

3. PROGRAMMERS AID PACK

Please refer to my memo to you of Oct. 28, 1980. One feature I
forgot to describe is the Machine Language Monitor.

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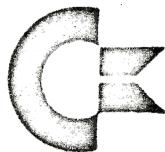
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4. SUPER EXPANDER PACK

We have not been able to finalize the features of this Pack.
New commands which will be added include PLOT, BOX, LINE, SOUND,
VOL, etc. This Pack will have two versions - one with 3K RAM on
board and the other one without RAM.

Horizontal Scrolling - I do not think it will be ready soon. If
it can be done, it will be included in Super Super Expander Pack
which we may introduce later.

5. 3K MEMORY EXPANDER

We will offer two versions - one with two empty ROM Slots and the
other without slots.

6. MASTER CONTROL PANEL (EXPANSION MODULE - MOTHER BOARD)

It will have 4 slots, 2 hidden slots ⌐and⌐ a built-in power supply all
enclosed in the steel case.

The first slot is exclusively for the "Auto-Start" ROM BOARDS
such as Game Packs, Super Expander etc. or 3K RAM PACK. These
ROM Packs will be activated automatically when the unit is turned
on.

The second slot is either for 3K RAM Pack or ROM BOARDS other them
those "Auto-Start" ROM BOARDS described above. Those ROM BOARDS
include IEEE-488 Interface Board which has an edge card connector.

The third slot is exclusively for 3K RAM Pack or 8K RAM BOARD.

The fourth slot is exclusively for 8K and 16K RAM board.

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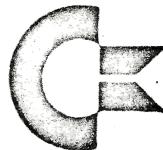
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Two hidden slots are universal to any Packsor Boards.

Power Supply – Yes, you need a different transformer since the current you use is different.

7. I have asked Shiraz Shivji to make 5 samples as soon as possible.

8. SEIKO has to modify the unit otherwise all VIC characters – Alphabet, graphic and Katakana – cannot be printed.

Since it has one-chip microprocessor, they need to develop the chip. The earliest the printer becomes available is March/April, 1981.

9. Japanese user manuals have been mailed to Jack Tramiel. Japanese manuals have following sections.

    1) Hardware

    2) Software

    3) BASIC reference

    4) Components Data Sheet

10. We have developed a cassette – based learning series called VIC BASIC.

TO :

FROM :

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14. SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

I am interested in the following. Please send us information as soon as possible.

      a. OZZ 20

      b. CHESS

15. I need it urgently.

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